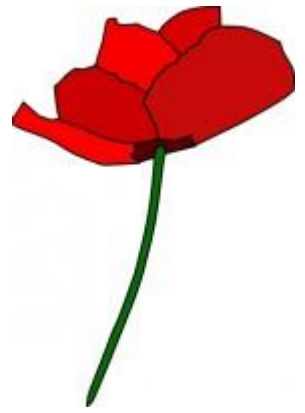


# IBC



February 6, 2023

Senator Maher, Representative Linehan, and members of the Committee on Children,

My name is Janet Calabro and I represent Guilford Public Schools. Today, I am speaking on SB 929, An Act Expanding School Meal Programs to Provide Free Meals to all Students. I have been a Food Service Director in Connecticut for over 25 years serving in four different school districts; Farmington, Hamden, Middletown and currently Guilford. I have seen many positive changes in the school meal programs over the course of this time. SNACT, USDA and the CSDE have worked hard and successfully to improve the school meal programs. These efforts and the investments made to feed children and ensure their nutritional wellbeing is priceless. I cannot imagine a better cause, can you?

The school lunch program originated for this exact reason. President Harry S. Truman signed the National School Lunch Act on June 4, 1946. Though school foodservice began long before 1946, the Act authorized the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). The legislation came in response to claims that many American men had been rejected for World War II military service because of diet-related health problems. **The federally assisted meal program was established as “a measure of national security, to safeguard the health and well-being of the Nation’s children and to encourage the domestic consumption of nutritious agricultural commodities.”**

Please consider making meals free for all children in public schools. I have dedicated my career to feeding children. The COVID pandemic has taught us important lessons. Experiencing the ability to feed all children free meals everyday has proven what was always known; there are many children regardless of household demographics that go without food. We have the ability to stop this, please help us feed children!

My sincerest gratitude,

Janet B. Calabro